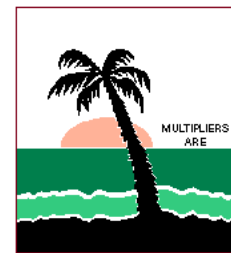




Contest Gazette

Florida Contest Group



www.floridacontestgroup.org

Volume 13 Issue 5

December 2006

From the President's Corner

By Dan Street, K1TO

In retrospect, 2006 was a pretty good year for us in the FCG. We were not hurricane-free as hoped, but the impact was certainly not as widespread and devastating as in recent years.



CQWW SSB gave us some pretty decent conditions on Saturday, then deplorable conditions on Sunday. I feared the worst for CQWW CW - that those same conditions would return 27 days later and kill the whole contest, but fortunately, it wasn't nearly that bad at all. It's amazing to see the FCG posting a 56 million point claimed score for CQWW CW alone - wow!!

PJ4A was a terrific experience for Vic, N4TO and me. The station location is on a nice hill, accommodations are just right, and the island itself is even keeled. We're both grateful to John, K4BAI for extending the invitation to join him again this year after operating as a team back in 1999 on Barbados. I've now completed a personal sweep of the ABC islands, having operated as PJ2/W1GNC on my very first DXpedition in July 1978 and as P40N for WW CW 1993. (Small world that it is, the previous holder of P40N was none other than our own N4PN!)

The FCG's second-most participated-in event each year (behind of course our own Florida QSO Party!) is the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. The FCG has won its club category 4 times in a row, but conditions may have thrown us a real curve ball this year. For the first time in at least 10 years, no FCGer leads their category in the claimed scores. Typically in low sunspot years, the FCG has really dominated. Nonetheless, it was neat to have a few EU pop in and of course the very unpredictable timing of Es made many of us grind it out. We will likely end up with plenty of entries, placing us in the Unlimited Club category against the much larger clubs. I show 60 FCG callsigns in my CW-only log and I believe that the Tallyman has identified 76 FCGers who were active - FB!

Haven't seen much mention on the reflector of two fine articles written by FCGers about their travels. Ellen, W1YL had a very nice piece appear in QST about her travels to VU and 9N. George, K5KG wrote in CQ about his VK2GC operation in last year's WW CW. Both brought orange FCG gear for their new friends abroad!



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL
FROM YOUR EDITOR K4LQ**

Is CW dead? That's the ultimate question for many of us as the FCC has just eliminated CW testing from all license exams. Debate on the topic is quite interesting. Looking at the empirical evidence, scores in the various CW tests continue to rise each sunspot cycle. But is that a result of us working each other more efficiently and our numbers are actually dwindling? One commonly cited stat is the Check being sent to us during SS that represents the year first licensed. Certainly, some use a more recent year if their callsign changed, but for the most part it should be a barometer of the aging population of CW contesters. In my log of just under 400 QSOs, the median Check received is 64, meaning they've been licensed for 42 years.

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By contrast, the SSB log median Check is 70, not as dramatic a difference as I'd imagined.

Is operating in the Assisted category OK? Heck, yeah! We aim in this club to have fun first and foremost. Everyone's definition is different. Much the same way that we don't want others to force their opinions on politics, religion or sexual preference on us, we also should all have the freedom to choose our operating category for each contest. There are many advantages to being Assisted. Check out the CQWW listings each year where the W2/W3 contingent is dominant in the Single-Op Assisted category, based on the FRC's conclusion that higher club scores are obtained by having spotting assistance for single ops. Somebody mentioned feeling better knowing that they are less likely to miss an opening if they monitor the spots. Some nodes allow the Talk feature, so single ops can feel less isolated using that approach. In SS, with a finite number of multipliers and the mug incentive, many part-timers seek sections with assistance. (see p. 6 for a vivid example of this - all 6 multi-ops got a sweep in SS CW!) Assisted can actually drag you down if you are not careful, though. Going to a fresh spot with dozens of others who might have better stations or propagation will only lead to wasted time as you call unsuccessfully in the pileup. Callsign accuracy is often an issue, so you must be careful to get it right. And the value of each multiplier is the key strategic decision to make. If half of your QSOs are new multipliers, then the value of each new mult is the same as working two non-multiplier QSOs. So be sure to beef up the QSO side of the ledger so that the multiplier has something to multiply!

Another small world story: I'm just starting a long project with a company in So Cal. One of their key team members has the last name of Wical, so I asked... and sure enough, her father-in-law is Lee Wical, KH6 Bloomin Zipper Flipper! Send me your recollections of Lee. I want to send his daughter-in-law a compilation! I recall working Lee back in the '70s as I was just getting started. Has anyone worked him on CW?

Welcome aboard to our new members! We again end the year with a membership roll in the 190s, a number none of us dreamed of less than 10 years ago!

I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow officers and the Tallyman (non-appointed position) for their dedication to the FCG and to all of you for your contribution to this terrific club.

I wish you and yours very Happy Holidays! GO FCG! OJ!

vy 73, Dan, K1TO

2007 Dues due 1 January

It's that time of year again. Annual dues are \$10, or \$15 if you want the newsletter forwarded by US Mail. Please make checks out to Florida Contest Group. Mail to: Fred Perkins, K4LQ, 3437 Lake Josephine Drive, Lake Placid FL 33852. Thanks.

Welcome Aboard



W4CU Tom Schaeffer, 11023 Village Green Ave., Seminole FL 33772 e-mail: w4cu@earthlink.net

W4UUM Lee E. Oliver Sr., 959 Bartlett Lane, Rockledge FL 32955-4003 e-mail: w4hame@msn.com

AC5ZS Bob Shear, 572 Priscilla Place, Merritt Island FL 32953-8144 e-mail: AC5ZS@arrl.net

FCG closed out the year with 193 Members

Dick Ballou K3MQH SK

Aug 18, 2006

Richard G. Waters Ballou II

Richard Garde Waters Ballou II, 62, Sarasota, died Aug. 9, 2006.

He was born Feb. 2, 1944, in Rockville Centre, N.Y., and came to Sarasota in 2001 from Dover, Pa. He was a maintenance worker and a Navy veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a volunteer director of communications for the Red Cross, and a member of American Amateur Radio Club and American Legion Post 791, all in Dover.

Survivors include a son, Ryan G. of York, Pa.; and a sister, DiAnne Roberts of Hardin, Ore.

The following is taken with thanks from the Central PA Repeater Association Newsletter: "It is with deep regret that I announce the passing of Dick, K3MQH. He lived in York, Pa. for many years and then moved to Florida in 2001. He was a true contester, both on HF and VHF. He was best known in the area for the South Mountain contest site that he owned from 1991 to 2000. In 2001 he moved to Florida. He had battled prostate cancer for some years and told me he had it under control. I received regular E-mails from him up until recently, he was happy that another Ham had purchased his property and redeveloped it rather than seeing it become house lots or a camp site. He was scheduled to go on a DX pedition in the Caribbean and he was very active in the disaster relief radio operations from a Red Cross operation in Mississippi in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Hope you found peace in the clouds above. "

Walt, WA1HHN/K3EAR

Melbourne Hamfest & K9ES Meeting Report

The Contesting Forum went well at the Melbourne Hamfest. About 40 people attended. Eric K9ES did a presentation on Contesting in general, and a second one on contest logging software. George K5KG did a presentation on Contesting from Dominica, and a second briefer one on Contesting from Australia. Pizzas for attendees proved very popular, and were polished off in record time. More material was scheduled, but time ran out, as we only had the meeting room for one hour. We will shoot for a 1 ½ hour time segment next year.

Using Eric's directions posted on our web site, I found the new K9ES QTH in West Melbourne with no problem. Eric has a huge back yard for antennas. He has poured the foundation for a small building next to the house for his new shack. He has erected two of the four verticals that he will use for an 80 meter 4 square. He expects to have the rest of his antenna systems up and running by late summer next year, and a multi-two station setup in his new shack.

Eric has a very large back porch, which also encompasses a pool. The meeting was held on the porch. Attending were: AAOKO and Carol, AA4HP and Stephanie K4MVO, K1KNQ, K1XX, K4LQ, K4PJ, K4QD, K5KG, K8NZ, K8OSF and Sharon, K9ES and Sylvia, KC4HW, KC4XK and Ginny, KD4JKW, KE1F, N2WB, KI4TG, N4EK and Trish KD4BRJ, N4GI, N4PJ, NA4CW, NS1L, W0CN, W4CEO, W4EBA, W4EIP, W4QM, W4SAA, W4YA, W9OY, WF3C and Taylor KI4GHK, WA4NKD, and WO4D.

George K5KG opened the meeting by saying that he was standing in for Dan, K1TO who is out of state with his father who is very ill.

He then thanked Eric K9ES and Sylvia for their hospitality.

The hat was passed for donations to help offset the cost of the fine luncheon that Eric and Sylvia had prepared.

George asked for attendees who were at their first FCG meeting to introduce themselves.

Dan W0CN, who operates primarily SSB, is an active duty Air Force member who transferred here recently from Hawaii. He recently participated in a Dxpediton to Wake Island.

Jan K4QD is President of the PCARS Club, and travels frequently to DX locations. In the past year he has been to HH Haiti and ZD8 Ascension Island. He will be going to Montserrat as VP2MQD for CQWW Phone, and is working on plans for another trip to ZD8 Ascension Island

Art N4PJ is a 4th generation Floridian now living in Leesburg. He retired from Sprint in September 2001. He re-

cently returned from a Dxpediton to Mozambique as C91JR. He is a Dxer and casual tester and county hunter.

Jim, NS1L is a former US Coast Guard Radio Operator who joined the US Merchant Service as a Radio Electronics Officer in 1979, retiring from that area in 1999. During an assignment at Diego Garcia he operated as VQ9ZZ.

Arnie W4EIP was first licensed in 1950. Arnie is presently putting together a station in Palm Bay FL, but has been inactive the past couple years. He has had some prior contest experience operating at the well known contest super station of Buzz Reaves K2GL in Tuxedo Park NY.

Neil KC4XK is currently setup with an IC-7000 and a 20 meter ground plane antenna.

Bill N2WB has attended FCG meetings before, but is always a good source of dxing information since he has been very active from the DX side of things over the past several years. He returned not long ago from the 3Y0X dxpediton to Peter 1 Island. He and some of the same operators will be going to XT2 Burkina Faso during the period of 6 to 22 January next year. They will be well equipped with Yaesu and Acom equipment and expect to have good signals on all bands. I asked Bill after the meeting if he knows of any plans to activate 3Y0 Bouvet anytime soon, he said it is likely in the next few years.

George then asked for all attendees to introduce themselves.

George summarized the Contest Dxpediton plans for members during the first part of the upcoming contest season. They are as follows:

W4DTA, K9VV, WD4R and K5KG to NP2B for CQWW PHONE

K4QD to Montserrat as VP2MQD for CQWW Phone

AD4Z to HI3A for CQWW CW (Julio is recovering from a heart attack, but is doing well).

K9VV to VP2V for CQWW CW

K1TO, N4TO and K4BAI to Bonaire AS PJ4A for MS IN CQWW CW

George reviewed the upcoming major contest schedule for the next couple months:

CQWW PHONE OCT 28-29

ARRL SS CW NOV 4 - 6

ARRL SS SSB NOV 18-20

CQWW CW NOV 25 - 26

ARRL 160M CONTEST DEC 1-3

ARRL 10M CONTEST DEC 9-10

George noted that we will certainly miss Bill K4XS and Holly K4XSS in the upcoming contest season. Bill sent an e-mail to the reflector last Thursday to say they had arrived safely in Hawaii. We also heard from him after the earthquake there that they are OK.

George asked Fred K4LQ for the Treasurer's report.

Funds in our account total \$4253 and the W1CW/K4OJ memorial fund contains \$2017.

Membership total is now at 190. Fred thanked everyone for their support of the newsletter by sending in pictures and articles. He noted that there had been so many pictures in the past couple issues that the newsletter files had taken 7-8 minutes to download from the internet on a dial-up connection. Fred asked that members upload their score summaries to the reflector as soon as possible after the end of upcoming contests, as some contest sponsors require submission of a club score by the secretary after the contest. Frank K4EJ is helping the process by score collection and building most of the spreadsheets that we use for the newsletter as well.

George asked for feedback on how members felt the forum went at the hamfest. Comments were positive, but as noted earlier, arrangements will be made for an extra half hour at next year's hamfest, so that content can be expanded somewhat.

George asked Eric K9ES to review the status of the FQP Plaque Program. Eric reported that he had received payment for all but six plaques, and was in the process of contacting those donors who had not yet paid. Eric has a local source for the plaques, and expects that he will be able to get them off shortly after the winners have been identified.

The meeting ended with a brief discussion of prizes in FQP. Some felt that we should add something related to Florida like a case of oranges to the plaque/certificate mix. No specifics were decided on, but this discussion will continue on the reflector.

Fred K4LQ

Secretary, FCG



Dan W0CN Joe W4SAA



Charlie K1XX Chris WF3C



Hank AA4HP Stephanie K4MVO



The concrete footing for the new K9ES Shack



Blake N4GI, Jim NS1L, Maurice W4CEO



Greg AA0KO and Jan K4QD



Orrin WO4D Jim KC4HW and Eric K9ES

Backward Sunspots may herald the start of Solar Cycle 24

(from the ARRL Letter, September 1, 2006)

The recent appearance on the sun of two so-called "backward sunspots" may mean solar Cycle 23 is drawing to a close and Cycle 24 now is under way or soon will be. At least that's the thinking of some scientists.

"We've been waiting for this," said Solar Physicist David Hathaway of the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, after the first backward spot showed up. "A backward sunspot is a sign that the next solar cycle is beginning."

The term "backward" refers to the sunspots' magnetic polarity. One such sunspot appeared briefly July 31, then disappeared, but its significance was that its magnetic polarity was just the opposite of current Cycle 23 spots.

Another more robust backward spot, Sunspot 905, appeared in late August -- although it subsequently began to dissipate -- and some sun gazers are saying Cycle 24 already has begun. ARRL propagation guru Tad Cook, K7RA, this week called it "the second sunspot of the new Solar Cycle 24."

"Eventually there will be more of the new reversed sunspots than old ones from Cycle 23, and that occurrence is one way to mark the beginning of the next sunspot cycle," he said. Radio conditions will not improve any time soon but over a period of several years of the course of the 11-year cycle, perhaps peaking around 2010.

Claimed Scores ARRL SS CW

Station	Score	QSOs	Sections	Class	Section	HRS	Operator (s)
W4GAC	75,520	472	80	Multioperator	WCF	24.0	KP2N, KR4U, N4RI, W4CU, WA4EEZ Non FCG: KU4BT, N1XX
N9JRZ	56,160	351	80	Multi-Single	NFL		N9JRZ, N4OK
K5KG	172,480	1078	80	Multi-Single	WCF	24.0	K5KG, K8NZ
N4WW	210,880	1318	80	SOHP	NFL	24.0	K0LUZ
W7QF	47,360	320	74	SOHP	NFL	7.8	
N4PJ	9,900	92	50	SOHP	NFL		
N4OX	150,574	953	79	SOHP	NFL-P	23.3	
K9VV	75,366	477	79	SOHP	SFL	8.3	
K9ES 1	0,608	104	51	SOHP	SFL	3.0	
AD4TR	162	9	9	SOHP	SFL	1.0	
N4TB	164,400	1040	80	SOHP	WCF	20.9	
K1TO	57,524	394	73	SOHP	WCF	3.4	
KC4HW	38,088	276	69	SOLP	AL	6.0	ALA CONTEST GROUP
K9OM/9	55,480			SOLP	IL		
WJ9B	175,696	1112	79	SOLP	NFL	24.0	
W4EBA	16,800	150	56	SOLP	NFL	7.0	
N4WO	4,200	60	35	SOLP	NFL		
WB4FSF		51		SOLP	NFL		
NF4A	112,160	701	80	SOLP	NFL-P	18.2	
K1PT	191,840	1199	80	SOLP	SFL		
W4OV	21,760	160	68	SOLP	SFL		
W4KPG	17,160	130	66	SOLP	SFL		
NA4CW	12,792	123	52	SOLP	SFL	3.0	
K4PG	3,248	56	29	SOLP	SFL		
NP2B	181,760	1136	80	SOLP	VI	23.0	N4BP
AJ2U		120		SOLP			
W4ZW	145,120	914	80	UNLIMITED	WCF		
K4LQ	80,480	503	80	UNLIMITED	WCF	18.8	
K4EJ	68,320	427	80	UNLIMITED	WCF		

Total 2,150,286

Total is minus out of state scores from KC4HW and K9OM/9



*Left: K4EJ's CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO ALL
FCGERS*

Thanks Frank !!

Claimed Scores CQWW Phone

CALL	Score	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Class	Section	HRS	OPS
K8NZ	67,050	175	48	102	SOAB LP(A)	SFL		
K4EJ	17,355	80	33	56	SOAB LP(A)	WCF	4.0	
W4TAA	492,229				SOAB LP WCF	20.0		
K4GKD	282,336	390	78	194	SOAB LP WCF	12.0		
W3TB	115,498	731	47	111	SOAB LP WCF	11.3		
AC5ZS	30,972	137	28	61	SOAB LP SFL			
N9JRZ	26,563	106	36	65	SOAB LP NFL	8.0		
W4EBA	22,000	102	30	58	SOAB LP NFL			100W/ mobile whips on Alpha Delta Tripod
W4QG	20,700	92	27	65	SOAB LP NFL			
K1HG	7,875	50	28	35	SOAB LP NFL			
KK3Q	7,623	50	25	38	SOAB LP NFL			
K4PG	6,834	51	22	29	SOAB LP SFL			
W4ZW/m	4	28	4	4	SOAB LP WCF			
AJ2U		34			SOAB LP			
K4CC/m					SOAB LP NFL			
K9OM					SOAB LP NFL			
K1PT	1,502,020	983	123	422	SOAB HP(A)	SFL	26.0	
WX4G	943,925	833	108	317	SOAB HP(A)	WCF	20.0	
N4PJ	585,920	637	76	244	SOAB HP(A)	NFL	14.0	
K4LQ	315,558	400	72	210	SOAB HP(A)	WCF	20.0	
W4FDA	210,960	313	67	173	SOAB HP(A)	NFL	10.0	
W4IR	192,204	300	64	164	SOAB HP(A)	WCF		
WW4E	69,130	161	50	105	SOAB HP(A)	NFL	9.7	
N4WO	26,572	113	29	62	SOAB HP(A)	NFL	11.7	
W4UM	2	1	1	1	SOAB HP(A)	SFL	0.1	
N6AR	1,570,266	1189	117	369	SOAB HPNFL	31.0		
N4WV	1,508,040	939	132	458	SOAB HPNFL	30.0		
N8PR	479,458	540	83	239	SOAB HPSFL	12.0		
NJ2F	431,028	520	88	219	SOAB HPSFL			
N4EK	314,352	477	54	182	SOAB HPNFL			
W7QF	306,944	427	69	187	SOAB HPNFL	14.0		
K4ADR	151,822	283	62	144	SOAB HPSFL			
K1TO	149,694	302	53	130	SOAB HPWCF	3.5		
AD4TR	141,778	292	54	128	SOAB HPSFL			
WF3C	115,080	250			SOAB HPNFL	9.0		at W4MLB
W4CEO	114,636	258	44	120	SOAB HPNFL	14.3		
K4PB	99,306	217	48	114	SOAB HPSFL			
W4RIS	79,383	207	44	97	SOAB HPSFL	7.6		at K4FAU
WA4ASJ	60,900	187	33	83	SOAB HPSFL	8.0		
N4CC	38,760	145	30	65	SOAB HPNFL	4.0		
NA4CW	2	2	1	1	SO160 LP	SFL	2.0	
K9ES	91,504	345	25	87	SO 80 HP	SFL	24.0	
W4WR	7,011	61	15	26	SO 15 LP(A)	SFL		
N4TP	252,252	437	60	171	M/S LP WCF	20.6		W0CN, W3VR
K9VV	180,068	306	63	155	M/S HP SFL			

DX OPERATIONS

NP2B	7,861,794	6509	123	415	M/2 HP	ZONE 8	48.0	K5KG, NP2B, WD4R, W4DTA, N4BP
T93M	1,293,275	3972	40	139	SO 20 HP	ZONE 15	38.7	N4EXA
VP2MQD	137,522	833	18	59	SO 20 LP	ZONE 8		K4QD

Total FCG **20,328,205**

FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP - PANHANDLE

K4JAF	28,714	110	35	63	SOAB QRPP	NFL-P	4.0	
NF4A	205,856	340	65	159	SOAB LP	NFL-P	7.9	

Total **234,570**

OTHER OPERATIONS

NQ4I	1,671,429	4599	164	574	M/2 HP	GA		N4OX, VE7ZO + 12 non FCG
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**Pictures
From NP2B
CQWW
Phone
Operation**

*The NP2B QSL
Card*

*Tnx Julio WD4R
&
Steve W4DTA for
Pictures*



*Above Left
Julio WD4R , Right
Steve W4DTA at
the Run Station*



*Left - L/R
Uncle Lou KV4JC
Steve W4DTA
Bob N4BP
George K5KG
Julio WD4R*



Above - The NP2B Antenna Farm

Below - Beach Scene near NP2B



Claimed Scores CQWW CW

CALL	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Score	Class	Section	OPERATORS
PJ4A	8444	179	648	13,803,464	MULTI-OP-ALL-HIGH	ZONE 9	K1TO, N4TO + 1 non-FCG
NQ4I	5387	187	681	4,515,494	MULTI-OP-MULTI- ALL-HIGH	GA	VE7ZO, W1MD, K1XX, N4OX + 7 non-FCG
N4WW	3147	173	601	6,745,410	MULTI-OP-TWO-ALL-HIGH-ASSISTED	NFL	N4WW, K0LUZ, N4GG
K9ES	647	34	113	257,397	SINGLE-OP-80M-HIGH	SFL	
K4NNX	206	25	94	66,164	SINGLE-OP-80M-HIGH	SFL	NL7AU
N4TB	1618	138	438	2,560,896	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH	WCF	and RED BULL
N6AR	1389	146	478	2,421,744	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH	NFL	
WX4G	1275	134	431	2,013,095	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH	WCF	
W4QM	969	120	381	1,368,231	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH	SFL	
AD4TR	737	103	271	777,172	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH	NFL	
K4PB	593	119	306	703,800	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH	SFL	
W4IR	250	71	174	171,010	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH	WCF	
W1MO	281	68	151	168,411	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH	NFL	
W4YA	260	64	147	145,590	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH	NFL	
N4GI	261	44	118	120,204	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH	WCF	SO2R
W4CEO	224	65	135	119,973	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH	NFL	
W7QF	173	56	123	88,426	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH	NFL	
WW4E	64	38	57	17,005	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH	NFL	
K1PT	1938	163	540	3,815,181	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH ASSISTED	SFL	
N4CJ	1051	137	474	1,763,346	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH ASSISTED	WCF	G4BUE
W4FDA	663	110	332	837,590	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH ASSISTED	NFL	
N4PJ	707	91	306	810,277	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH ASSISTED	NFL	
KE1F	693	99	301	751,600	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH ASSISTED	NFL	
K4LQ	609	104	311	720,855	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH ASSISTED	WCF	
W4CU	634	102	271	651,631	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH ASSISTED	WCF	
K4QD	401	62	163	232,425	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH ASSISTED	SFL	
HI3A	4149	142	419	5,531,460	SINGLE-OP-ALL-LOW	ZONE 8	AD4Z
W3AU	1109	121	377	1,531,754	SINGLE-OP-ALL-LOW	WCF	K4GKD
WK2G	1263	110	293	1,305,720	SINGLE-OP-ALL-LOW	WCF	
WD4AHZ	624	95	256	602,667	SINGLE-OP-ALL-LOW	WCF	
K4PG	464	72	200	338,368	SINGLE-OP-ALL-LOW	SFL	
W4OV	355	96	214	302,870	SINGLE-OP-ALL-LOW	SFL	
N9JRZ	297	61	146	162,288	SINGLE-OP-ALL-LOW	NFL	
N4EK	229	50	127	113,634	SINGLE-OP-ALL-LOW	NFL	
W4EBA	201	43	114	86,978	SINGLE-OP-ALL-LOW	NFL	
N4WO	132	42	86	44,544	SINGLE-OP-ALL-LOW	NFL	
KB4N	126	42	81	41,820	SINGLE-OP-ALL-LOW	NFL	
AD4ES	134	33	73	38,199	SINGLE-OP-ALL-LOW	SFL	
W4KPG	80	41	90	21,008	SINGLE-OP-ALL-LOW	SFL	
W4ZW	313	77	180	218,707	SINGLE-OP-ALL-LOW (A)	WCF	
N4OK	252	58	141	130,544	SINGLE-OP-ALL-LOW (A)	NFL	
N4EXA	158	47	104	64,930	SINGLE-OP-ALL-LOW (A)	SFL	
N4BP	25	20	23	2,322	SINGLE-OP-ALL-QRP	SFL	
N4CC	60	21	27	7,776	SINGLE-OP-40M-HIGH	NFL	
WB4TDH	484	30	104	185,724	SINGLE-OP-15M-LOW	WCF	
W3TB	42	14	29	4,773	SINGLE-OP-20M-LOW	WCF	
N4IG	238	24	85	73,248	SINGLE-OP-40M-LOW	WCF	
N4PN	506	27	100	141,986	SINGLE-OP-160M-HIGH	GA	at W8JI
NA4CW	26	7	12	912	SINGLE-OP-160M-LOW	SFL	
K4EJ	249	27	95	83,448	SINGLE-OP-40M-LOW-ASSISTED	WCF	

FCG Total **56,682,071**

Florida Contest Group - Panhandle

KD5M	219	81	179	153,920	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH ASSISTED	NFL-P
KN4Y	340	86	176	237,100	SINGLE-OP-ALL-LOW	NFL-P
NF4A	77	15	42	12,198	SINGLE-OP-400M-HIGH	NFL-P

FCG Panhandle Total **403,218**

VP2VVV						ZONE 8	K9VV
K9OM/9	468	82	218	378,000	SINGLE-OP-ALL-HIGH	IL	

Julio AD4Z / HI3A

From the HI3CCP Superstation at
Loma Del Toro

Congrats to Julio who turned in a claimed score of 101,676 in the ARRL 160 Meter Contest, which at press time shows him **# 1 LP World**, and **# 2 World Overall**. His preliminary results in the CQWW CW contest show a score of 5,531,460. Thanks to Constantino Carlo HI3CCP for sending the pictures



Above and Below:

Two views of the main operating position at Loma Del Toro, with Julio HI3A in the operator's chair



Station owner Constantino Carlo HI3CCP in the background, Julio HI3A in the foreground.



Above and Below:

Two views of the antenna farm at Loma Del Toro



Pictures from PJ4A
CQWW CW
Ops. K1TO, K4BAI and N4TO



Our Towers and House

Thanks Dan K1TO for the pictures

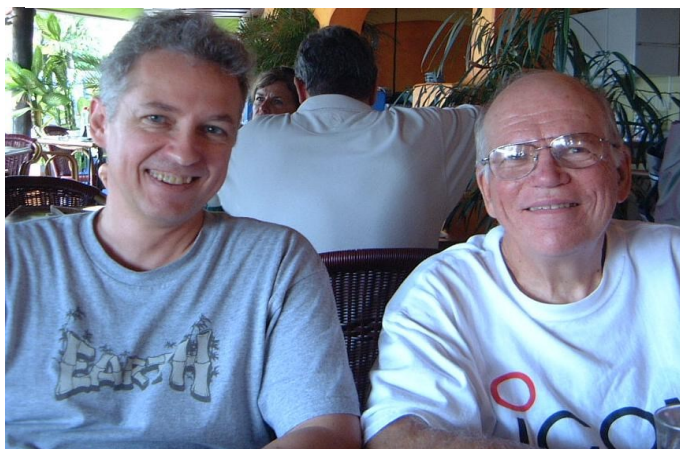


Flamingo in S&P Mode

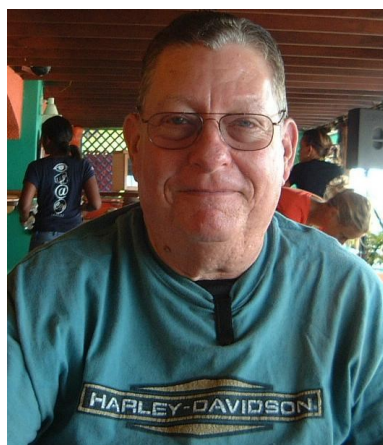


Above : Full Station View & N4TO Tries Partner Mode

Dan K1TO and John K4BAI



Vic N4TO



FCGer N4EXA starts Balun Business

Due to lack of good wire antenna baluns on the market I have started my small venture at <http://MyAntennas.com>

First I made a few to cut the cost down and gave a few to some friends, then I got bored and took my existing shopping cart platform to make this nice site to sell these baluns. Today I am proud to have my baluns in use as far as Darfur, Sudan...

I have consulted webmaster, Ron, WD4AHZ to offer all FCG members and their friends 25% discount. In order to get it just enter coupon code "FCG2006" in the appropriate box at the check out page. Site accept all types of payments including check in the mail.

BTW I also make my stack match for 2 antennas which is actually DESK-Match. It is a box matching two 50 Ohms antennas on your desk. In other words you can add another antenna to your trib-ander etc. without setting up remote boxes at the tower or outside the shack.

For info you can call me at 727-475-1985 or toll free at 1-866-285-5700

73's Danny T93M & N4EXA

K4CC Wins A Piece of the Rock

I attended the Charlotte NC hamfest this weekend while working in Charlotte on my project. I attended the 3Y0X presentation while I was there and it was good. I also participated an auction of some 3Y0X memorabilia. I did not win the autographed world maps but I did win a "piece of the rock", a small piece of rock brought back from Peter Island Antarctica. This is the closest I will probably be to such place or activity! I did work 3Y0X on both CW and SSB (60w and first call).

73 Cary K4CC

FCGer KC4HW starts Alabama Contest Group

The Alabama Contest Group (ACG) has been created as of September 12th - with its primary purpose to enjoy and promote contesting to ham radio stations in Alabama. Additionally, the Alabama Contest Group will be the sponsoring organization for the Alabama QSO Party (AQP). ACG officers are: President: Jim/KC4HW; Vice President: Tim/KY5R; Secretary: Cort/K4WI; and Treasurer: Tom/K4ZGB. We have 21 members thus far. We invite any Alabama ham interested in contesting to visit our web site at <http://www.AlabamaContestGroup.org> for additional information regarding membership or contact Jim at kc4hw@alabamacontestgroup.org.

CQ County Hunters de N3ISH

George N3ISH finished up all 3077 counties for the 3rd time. I started my 3rd time August 4, 2004, and finished September 30th just short of twenty six months later. For those of you that want to try, this is what you have to do. When you work the counties, they have to be in a mobile for it to count. They have all kind of awards to work. They do have an award for working 18 wheelers, YL'S, Teams and other awards that you will find out when you start. There is a program called Kwin 2000 that will keep track of all awards as you work them. It takes a lot of dedication with long hours waiting for the county you need. Once you start to work them, they will get to know you and call you by name. County Hunting will get in your blood. You will pickup a lot of friends along the way. You can work them by phone, CW and FM 2 meters. One Ham from Japan finished up and it took his twenty two years to finish. Now that is a County Hunter. The hard ones are as you expect Hawaii, Alaska and the West coast. I was waiting for Honolulu on 30 meters CW on November 11th 2005 and N8KIE put out the county. I jumped right in there and got him right away. My friends were talking on our chat room and KQ0B said did you hear how loud N3ISH was? I said yes and I am working off a mobile antenna on top of my house. They could not believe me. One ham in Colorado and myself was the only ones to get him. That made me feel good as it was on CW and the mobile antenna. When you first start you can get 50 or 60 counties a day. When you get over 1000 counties you start to slow down. Then when you get to 100 to go you may go days or weeks to you get a county. It is very exciting to try, and they are all workable with a small antenna or a wire dipole. Mary worked them 5 times with 100 watts. It is what you want do and how long you want to spend on the air. I started working them on 30 meters and been having a ball. If you have any questions, please call me. My phone number is 239-774-1759 and cell is 239-272-1759. 73 to all Hams George N3ISH

"Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order Takes Effect December 15

SB QST ARL ARLB027

ARLB027 "Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order Takes Effect December 15

With publication in the Federal Register November 15, the long-awaited changes to the amateur rules are set to take effect 30 days later, at 12:01 AM EST December 15. The so-called "Omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, includes a significant expansion of the 75 meter phone band and a variety of other changes. The highlights:

* For Amateur Extra class licensees, the 75 meter phone band will start at 3600 kHz, while Advanced class licensees start at 3700 kHz and Generals at 3800 kHz. The high end of the CW/RTTY/Digital band is now 3600 kHz (although CW is allowed on the entire band).

* On 40 meters, Amateur Extra and Advanced licensees will be able to operate phone beginning at 7125 kHz, while Generals start at 7175 kHz. The top end of the CW/RTTY/Digital band will be 7125 kHz (although CW is allowed on the entire band).

* There are no changes to the 20 meter band.

* On 15 meters, the General class phone band now starts at 21275 kHz.

* On 10 meters, Novice and Technician Plus licensees can now operate CW/RTTY/Digital from 28000 kHz to 28300 kHz.

* In addition, Novices and Tech Plus licensees can use CW only on the same frequencies as General and Advanced licensees on the 80, 40 and 15 meter bands: 3525 kHz-3600 kHz; 7025 kHz-7125 kHz and 21025 kHz-21200 kHz.

The Report & Order as published in the Federal Register clarified two items that had raised some

concerns when it was first released October 10:

That the 80/75 meter band split applies to all three IARU Regions, and that FCC licensees in Region 2, which includes North America, can continue to use RTTY/data emissions in the 7075-7100 kHz band.

Several controversial aspects of the proceeding are still to be resolved, although the FCC is working on an erratum for the inadvertent elimination of J2D emissions of more than 500 Hz bandwidth. The Commission intends to release the erratum by the December 15 effective date.



Above is the new QTH of Bill and Holly K4XS and K4XSS on the Big Island of Hawaii, where he soon hopes to be KH7XS.

Bill says "The tower will be located where the stakes are....straight downhill in for 270 degrees....very steep for W/ EU and JA. It doesn't look that steep, but it is impossible to drive a car up the slope from where the bulldozer is....approx a 30 degree slope for about a 50- foot drop, then a 10 degree slope for a couple of hundred feet, then the bottom drops out as it heads toward the 200 foot cliffs for W/EU and JA."

Miscellaneous Scores Smaller Contests

Station	Score	QSOs	MULTS	Class	Section	OPERATOR(S)
RUSSIAN RTTY WW CONTEST						
N6AR	77,675	153	65	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	NFL	Poor Conditions
KE1F	7,650	64	18	SINGLE-OP 20M HIGH	NFL	Poor Conditions
NA SPRINT CW CONTEST						
K1TO	17,664	368	48	SINGLE-OP ALL High	WCF	TOP Ten with SO1R
K1PT	11,730	255	46	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	SFL	First CW SPRINT ever !
NF4A	9,768	222	43	SINGLE-OP ALL LOW	FL	
SEPT VHF QSO PARTY						
K9ES	66	9	6	SINGLE-OP LOW (6-2-432)	NFL	First contest from new QTH !
NA SPRINT SSB CONTEST						
NF4A	4,356	121	35	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	NFL	
SAC CW CONTEST						
WX4G	40,000	247		SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH		LOG LOST - NOT SUBMITTED
N6AR	24,276	155	68	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	NFL	
N4BP	24,190	187	82	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	SFL	
K5KG	19,120	189	80	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	SFL	
K4LQ	8,016	81	48	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	WCF	
K9ES	621	34	27	SINGLE-OP ALL LOWSFL		
WASHINGTON STATE QSO PARTY						
KN4Y	7,940	93	20	SINGLE-OP ALL LOWNFL		
CQ WW DX - RTTY						
WN1GIV	1,041,200	1542	400	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	SFL	N4BP, OPR
N4RI	697,048	1067	356	MULTI-ONE HIGH	WCF	AA1IK, KB9LMX, KP2N, N2ESP, N4RI @ W4GAC
N6AR	268,804	426	268	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	NFL	
KE1F	186,417	421	231	SINGLE-OP ALL LOW (A)	NFL	
K4LQ	116,390	254	206	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	WCF	
W4STB	47,244	194	127	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	SFL	
K4ADR	37,990	125	145	SINGLE-OP ALL LOWSFL		First RTTY Contest !
N4WO	36,408	170	123	SINGLE-OP ALL LOWNFL		
W4ZW	26,290	99	110	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	WCF	
N4GI	76,230	306	121	SINGLE-OP 20m HIGH	WCF	
K4JAF	7,332	72	52	SINGLE-OP 20m LOWNFL		
W4DKB	5,088	37	53	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	SFL	
SAC SSB CONTEST						
WX4G	10,092	145	48	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH	WCF	
TEXAS QSO PARTY						
KN4Y	75,168	216	116	SINGLE-OP ALL LOW CW	NFL	
N4TB	73,008	208	117	SINGLE-OP ALL LOW CW	WCF	
W4YA	13,328	73	56	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH CW	NFL	
K8NZ	5,280	44	40	SINGLE-OP ALL LOW CW	SFL	
CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY						
W4TAA	60,958	284	58	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH CW	WCF	
NF4A	57,456	439	56	SINGLE-OP ALL LOW MIXED	NFL	
N4TB	44,838	282	53	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH CW	WCF	
KN4Y	34,821	219	53	SINGLE-OP ALL LOW CW	NFL	
K4LQ	26,076	179	53	SINGLE-OP ALL HIGH MIXED	WCF	
W3VR	14,112	147	48	SINGLE-OP ALL LOW SSB	WCF	
K4JAF	9,280	116	40	SINGLE-OP ALL LOW CW	NFL	
PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY						
KN4Y	11,123	142	49	SINGLE-OP ALL LOW CW	NFL	
N3ISH	4,700	100	46	SINGLE-OP ALL LOW	SFL	
WAE RTTY						
N4WO	14,430	130	111	NFL		
N6AR	83,720	140	260	NFL		
W4CU	242,880	736	330	WCF		

K5KG - SIESTA KEY ANTE NNA MAINTENANCE

Here are photos of the work that Blake and I did on Saturday. The original problem is shown in the photo to the right. The rivets that secured the driven element of the Force 12 EF240X, 40m yagi had worked their way loose in the 5 years that the antenna had been up, leaving the element hanging off the end of the boom. We repaired the element by drilling out the remaining rivets, and replacing them with 4 1/4" stainless steel bolts with "nyloc" locknuts. Once the driven element was repaired, we then checked the reflector, only to find that the rivets there had also worked their way out, and it was only a matter of time before the reflector would have slipped off the end of the boom. So we drilled out those rivets and replaced them with bolts.

We then checked the tuning on the 40m yagi, and were surprised to find that the resonance had gone high in the band. In fact, resonance was at about 7400 kHz. Not being able to explain the change, we readjusted the spreader wires and brought the resonance down to 7080 kHz. More to follow on this saga.

The next repair was to install a Slipp-Nott on the boom to mast bracket on the 40 to keep it from blowing off azimuth in the wind, a problem that I have had since this antenna was new. The installation took some doing, since the U-bolts had rusted very badly. Lots of lube oil and Blake's elbow grease finally managed to remove the nuts, and the Slipp-Nott was finally installed.

The third repair was to install a Romex cable between the 20m and 15m driven elements on the C31. We did this in an attempt to bring the 20m resonance point down. Ever since this antenna was new, it has resonated above the 20m band. Blake successfully installed the Romex cable, but the net result was only to raise the resonance even further. The next step, when we get the crane back, will be to drill out the 20m driven element rivets and extend the length of the element by 2" on each side, in hopes that that will bring the resonance into the band. A forth repair was done by straightening the black phonelic blocks that secure the 20m and 15m driven elements. They had twisted in the wind, and were brought back into alignment without any problems.

Once the project was complete, and the work basket and crane were put away and paid for, I put power to the antennas to make sure they were ok. The C31 showed the raised resonance point even further on 20m, although the antenna is quite usable. The 40m yagi, however, had changed measurably from our new settings. I later discovered that the 40m antenna's resonance, and VSWR, will change with the amount of power applied to it. Below 200w, it is ok, but above 200w, the resonance goes down to about 6900 kHz and, of course, the VSWR in the band goes high. After extensive troubleshooting in the shack, I have eliminated coax jumpers, VSWR bridge, antenna switch, lightning arrester, etc. as the source of the problem. I suspect that something at the feed point, such as the balun, tuning coil, bolt connec-

tions, etc. is the problem. I plan to bring back the crane next weekend and continue the troubleshooting.....ugh!

The crane was a 38 ton unit with a 138 ft. boom with a work basket.

All of the other photos are self explanatory.

73, Geo...

Thanks George for the Pictures





From ARRL Contest Rate Sheet

Dave K6LL has found an "RF bulletproof" cordless phone; the Uniden Model EXP 970, available at Walmart for under \$10. He also thinks that the Radioshack phone, Model ET-296 series, catalog # 43-874 (white) is similar to the discontinued, but RF resistant, model 43-591.

One more tip for phone contesting - before responding and giving the contest exchange, breathe in. Then say the whole exchange in one long exhalation. Do not add extra words like "Please copy" or "Your number is" or "Check," "Uh," and "And." They are just time and breath wasters. Listen to the top operators when you tune by them. The key to sounding like a pro is efficiency and rhythm, giving the information in the expected order, enunciated clearly for easy copy.

To keep a turnbuckle from loosening up, put a loop of cable through both eye bolts (or the guy cable thimbles) and the body, then clamp the ends together with a cable clamp. (Thanks, Jim K0XU and others)

URL of the Week - How about contest calendars? These are just terrific for loading up the all-important kitchen refrigerator calendar months in advance. My favorite for one-stop shopping is Jan-Eric Rehn SM3CER's calendar at <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/> It not only contains dates, but (usually) the complete rules and links to sponsor's Web sites. N2CQ's QRP Contest Calendar - <http://www.amqrp.org/contesting/contesting.html> - is a good specialty site and you can always check out the ARRL's on-line Contest Corral at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>

Bob W9GE contributed a tip that might help readers avoid an unpleasant surprise. If you take a galvanized assembly to a reglazing service, be SURE it does not have plastic or aluminum fasteners or it might just fall apart in the molten zinc bath. HBX and HDBX towers (and the MFJ/Hy-Gain Hy-Towers) do have aluminum rivets holding the cross-braces on. Oops.

Events Calendar

Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z, Dec 30 to 1500Z, Dec 31

ARRL RTTY Roundup 1800Z, Jan 6 to 2400Z, Jan 7

North American QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Jan 13 to 0600Z, Jan 14

North American QSO Party, SSB 1800Z, Jan 20 to 0600Z, Jan 21

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 0000Z, Jan 27 to 2359Z, Jan 28

SFDXA Dinner Sat Night Feb 3 in Miami - details to follow

North American Sprint, CW 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 4

Orlando Hamfest FCG Meeting Feb 10 at noon at Golden Corral - details to follow

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Feb 17 to 2400Z, Feb 18

CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB 0000Z, Feb 24 to 2359Z, Feb 25

North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Feb 24 to 0600Z, Feb 25

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB 0000Z, Mar 3 to 2400Z, Mar 4

FCG Sponsors CQWW Plaque

FCG will sponsor the CQWW DX Contest SSB Multi/Multi USA Plaque.

When Dan K1TO checked with K1AR as to available plaques for sponsorship, there was very little left in the USA Plaques to be sponsored

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